

Appln No. 09/926,230
Reply to the Office Action dated October 7, 2003

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 and 13-18 are active in the application. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejection, 35 USC 112

The issue raised with respect to Claim 7 is believed resolved by the amendments made to Claims 6 and 7, whereby in Claim 6 the anionic starch is defined as, in addition, containing carboxylato groups, and then Claim 7 is made dependent of Claim 6. This way Claim 1 requires no modification, the anionic starch that contains carboxyl and/or carboxylato groups of Claim 7 finds antecedent basis in Claim 6 and therefore the dependency of Claim 7 can be properly made on Claim 6.

As to Claim 11, the term objected to has been deleted in favor of "prepared." Accordingly, the issues that has been raised are believed obviated. The amendments made are believed not to have raised new issues after final nor has new matter been introduced into the claims. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

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It is now believed that the application is in proper condition for allowance. Early notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "F D Oblon".

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